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Oligokhety Severnogo Baikala (Oligochaetes of Northern Baikal), "Nauka" Publishers, Novosibirsk, 1987, p. 17-18

Genus Vejdovskyella Michaelsen, 1903

1. Vejdovskyella dilucida[1] sp. n. (Fig. 3)

Occurrence. Cape Kurly, depth 50 m, silted coarse sand, 17 July 1975, one immature specimen.

Holotype stored at the Institute for Forest Study of the Siberian Department of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Description. Fragment of single individual consists of 15 segments. Length of fragment 1.1 mm, maximum diameter 0.28 mm. Prostomium oblate, length almost half of diameter at base. No eyes. Intersegmental furrows well-defined. First four segments simple, segments V-VI biannulate, subsequent ones triannulate.

Body integuments transparent.

Ventral setae of anterior segments slender, well-proportioned, straight, with long thin teeth of equal thickness; distal tooth longer than proximal one. Proximal tooth at right angle to distal tooth. End of distal tooth drawn out and curved. Bundles of segments II-III each contain 3-4 setae 94 μm long; bundles of segments IV-V with 2 setae each; one seta per bundle beginning from segment VI, setae shorter and twice as thick as setae of anterior segments, with proximal tooth much longer and thicker

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[1] Latin for "light"

than distal tooth, length of setae from 43 μm (segment IX) to 60 μm (segment XII).

Dorsal setae appear from segment VI. Dorsal bundles each with 3 hairlike setae with serrate edge and 3 needle-like setae. Hairlike setae 284-355 μm long, needle-like setae 71-86 μm long.

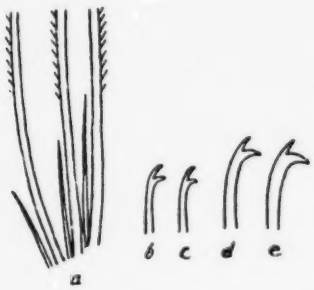

Fig. 3. Vejdovskyella dilucida sp. n. a - dorsal hairlike and needle-like setae (oc. 7 x obj. 90), b - ventral seta of segment II, c - ventral seta of segment III, d - ventral seta of segment IX, e - ventral seta of segment XI

Due to the absence of sexually mature individuals, we were unable to give a complete description of the species. Without studying the structure of the reproductive system, we have assigned the new species to the genus Vejdovskyella on the basis of the setal characteristics. The structure of the ventral setae of the postlarval segments distinguishes this species from all the other species of the genus.

In the system of the Oligochaeta, the Naididae bear the greatest similarity to the Aeolosomatidae, though it is impossible to assert that they evolved from the aeolosomatids. O.V. Chekanovskaya (1962) writes that the organization of the Naididae bears traces of profound primitiveness, as evidenced by the presence of eyes, the structural simplicity of the reproductive system, and well-defined differences in the structure of the larval and postlarval segments. The same type of paratomy makes the Naididae similar to the Aeolosomatidae.

The Naididae are predominatly found in overgrowths of macrophytes, on various substrates of the coastal zone, most commonly silty and silty-sandy substrates. This family includes 20 genera and 62 species. In Lake Baikal, we know of 20 species of naidids so far, and seven of them are endemics. Our collections from the northern part of Lake Baikal include 12 species of naidids, of which four are geographically common species, seven are endemics (all indicated by N.L. Sokolovskaya, 1962), and one is a new species. This is the first time N. pseudobtusa has been noted in Lake Baikal.